



# Resolving Grazing Disputes *with Science*



Technical Review Teams: An effective and respectful resolution process.



## Technical Review Teams

Scientific knowledge has become the new fuel for all business in the 21st century. In the rural West, as elsewhere, new ideas and range innovations boost productivity and economic growth. People's knowledge and ability to combine education, experience, ingenuity and technology are the ingredients that fuel agriculture business today.

Technical Review Teams are one place to start a knowledge-based strategy to rejuvenate grazing on public lands in Wyoming and communicate the resulting advantages to an ever-growing interested public. TRTs foster partnerships between private business and land agencies—voluntary partnerships that benefit the resource, ranches, wildlife and livestock, and assure opportunities for the next generation of ranching families.

*"The TRT program is a source of encouragement to me and hopefully to many others as well. So often, natural resource management become so politically charged that it is easy to overlook what is actually happening on the ground. The TRT program provides a great opportunity to shift the focus back to the land which has tremendous potential to address not only the natural resource concerns, but the 'people issues' as well."*

*—Paul Meiman, UW Cooperative Extension Service*

*"The TRT process allows the permittee and the Federal agencies to discuss issues toe to toe and base decisions on science."*

*—Grant Stumbough, Department of Agriculture*



From left to right: Mike Smith, Paul Meiman, Truman Julian, Jerry Pierce, and Grant Stumbough.



*"TRTs have proven to be a great tool for the permittees and Federal land agencies. This process encourages the use of sound science and the expertise of range specialists to help resolve land management disputes from a third party's perspective. If you feel you are at an impasse with other land managers, I encourage you to contact our Natural Resource Mediation Program and have us put together a TRT to help resolve your disputes."*

*—John Etchepare,  
Director Department of Agriculture*

## Utilizing Technical Review Teams

Under Wyoming Agriculture Mediation Law, Technical Review Teams (TRTs) can assist any permittee or entity in resolving disputes relating to public land grazing whether the land is administered by the BLM, US Forest Service or the State of Wyoming. This service is always free.

Members of the TRT must be range or other scientists with a broad background in public land issues. They assist permittees and the land agencies in evaluating the grazing allotment and in reaching agreement on management decisions.

Assistance can be requested either before or after an adverse decision has been rendered; however, a strict time line must be adhered to in accordance with a particular agency's rules.

To ask for assistance, fill out the Request for Assistance insert in this publication and submit it with copies of pertinent information to: Wyoming Agriculture and Natural Resource Mediation Program  
2219 Carey Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100

The WDA will contact both the permittee and the agency to gain a clear picture of the situation. They then select a TRT that is acceptable to both the permittee and the agency. A field trip to the permit is arranged as quickly as possible as a first step in the process.

Call the Mediation Program for more information at: 1-888-WYO-9278 or 307-777-7323, or visit <http://wyagri.state.wy.us/NATRES/Natres.htm>. There are no fees.

**Wyoming Department of Agriculture**  
*Request for Mediation Assistance on  
Public Land or Other Grazing Allotment or Lease Issues*

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Type of Allotment (check one): Forest Service ☐ BLM ☐ State ☐

Other (Type?) ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Administrative Office (Forest, District, Field Office, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Range Manager or Responsible Agency Official: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Allotment: \_\_\_\_\_

Location & Size of Allotment: \_\_\_\_\_

Permitted AUMs: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Action Proposed (e.g. permit cancellation, reduction in AUMs, reduction or  
change of season, change of grazing system, Other? – Be specific): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Status of Action: Verbal Notice ☐ Letter ☐ Decision ☐ Terms & Conditions ☐  
Under Appeal ☐ Other ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Effective Date of Action (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your efforts to date to resolve this issue (use additional sheets if necessary):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach copies of any pertinent correspondence or other information.

Send completed form and attachments to: Wyoming Department of Agriculture  
Mediation Program  
2219 Carey Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82002  
1-888-WYO-9278 or (307) 777-8788





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TO: Wyoming Department of Agriculture  
Mediation Program  
2219 Carey Ave.  
Cheyenne, WY 82002



From: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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# Rangeland Heroes

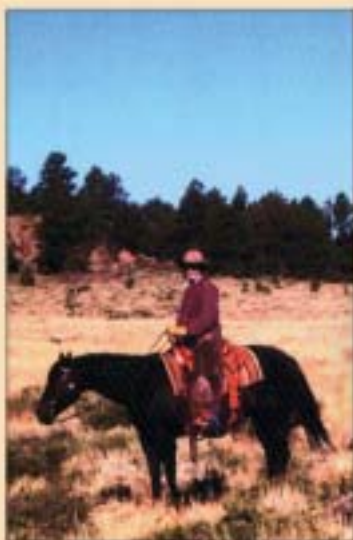


"Participating in a TRT was very enlightening. I learned a great deal about rangeland conditions and how to better monitor upland and riparian grasses. The TRT exposed me to an experts eye view of rangeland stewardship." -Brenda Johnson

"Technical Review Teams (or TRTs) add another tool to help resolve disputes before they get to the unresolvable stage. An analysis of a situation by a group of unbiased third-party experts usually results in suggested solutions to a problem that neither party had thought about before." -Bill Laycock

*Rangeland heroes are not scarce in Wyoming. The men and women in both the private and public sectors who make it a priority to preserve rangelands every day are numerous. Here are just a few...*

"TRT provides an excellent opportunity for both agencies and producers to take advantage of an outsider's assessment of resource conditions and management. Usually, both sides on the issue gain support in identifying conditions and strategies that promote equitable solutions to resource management problems." -Mike Smith



"I appreciate the knowledge the experts shared with us during the TRT process. With this information it is my hope that the Federal agency and public land ranchers will be able to reach common ground on riparian and rangeland management." -Nancy Bath



"My TRT experience is positive because two sides of an opinion receive a third and concerned voice for debated natural resource values. I am elated that the State of Wyoming supports this program, and know Agriculture will benefit from technical knowledge as presented through the TRT process." -Quentin Skinner  
With Quentin (R) is rancher, Joe Thomas (L)

"I am a firm believer in the TRT process. Not only is it a learning experience for those involved, it gives an unbiased opinion based on science, not personal ideas. Furthermore, they tend to build consensus between permittees, agencies, and range scientists. In my experience it has improved relationships between agencies and permittees. It is a lot better to settle differences in the field rather than in the court system where there are no winners. I want to emphasize that through the Wyoming Department of Agriculture these people are available to lend assistance wherever needed, and are more than willing to help permittees and agencies in accomplishing their goals and objectives." -Truman Julian







**Dave Freudenthal, Governor of the State of Wyoming**

*"Technical review teams (TRTs) can mean the difference between cooperation and courtrooms for some grazing lessees. By providing objective, science-based assessments, these teams open the lines of communication between permittees and agencies that might otherwise view each other only as adversaries. Both parties are able to use peer-reviewed science in reaching an agreement, rather than relying on emotion and past disagreements.*

*"TRTs encourage joint range monitoring efforts between the permittees and agencies, and they provide both entities with a baseline, using the most up-to-date plant and range management information, to develop good range management decisions.*

*"I would encourage anyone interested in the help TRTs can provide to contact the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. I am proud of the success of Wyoming's technical review team program – with good reason."*

#### UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Cooperative Extension Service *New Thinking*

##### University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension

*"Technical Review Teams (TRT) are a great approach to resolving grazing and other resource disputes through the application of sound, objective science. University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension educators and specialists have been involved in a number of TRTs. It is our role to bring the research of the universities to Wyoming resource issues. TRTs are an effective way to bring a science-based approach to resource disputes and the management of public lands."*



##### Ron Stellingwerf - United States Forest Service

##### Bob Mountain - United States Forest Service

*"A TRT is a group of technically competent professionals meeting to share their expertise in developing alternatives to resolve resource issues on the ground. The development of the alternatives is the gauge of whether the review was a success or not. Whether or not the alternatives are implemented is a decision between the permittee and the agency administrator and should not be used to judge the success of the review."*



##### Bob Bennet - BLM, Wyoming State Director

*"Livestock grazing provides an economic cornerstone to rural communities. Occasionally, conflicts associated with other uses of rangelands occur. Because these issues are complex, sometimes a fresh look at the situation can produce an idea that resolves a long standing disagreement. The Bureau of Land Management appreciates the efforts of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture in enhancing agricultural uses of the public lands."*

#### Wyoming Agriculture and Natural Resource Mediation Program

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1-888-WYO-9278 (307) 777-8788  
<http://wyagric.state.wy.us/NATRES/Natres.htm>

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

To obtain this publication in an alternative format, contact the Wyoming Dept. of Agriculture at (307) 777-7323

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